



CLUB NEWS



Alan Koch

Oct. 2, 2018 Monthly SAOS Meeting By Janis Croft

Welcome and Thanks. Bob Schimmel opened the meeting at 7:00 pm sharp with 67 attendees. Linda Stewart introduced our three guests, new members David and Lynn Squillacote, and returning members Angela Shuett and Mary Radcliffe-Gicca. Bob thanked Lucy, Dottie and Dorianna for bringing in

their delicious desserts and Jeannette Smith for organizing the refreshments. He then reminded all to drop a dollar in the basket while enjoying their refreshments.

Club Business. The East Everglades, Gainesville, Delray Beach, Florida West Coast OS and the Slipper Symposium including the Fall AOS members meeting are all this month. Check the SAOS website for more details.

- The last Ace Repotting Clinic for this year will be October 6.
- Keiki Club on Fall Preparations will be on October 21 at Bob and Yvonne Schimmel's home, 702 Wilkes Court, St. Augustine, FL.
- Limited quantities of SAOS items and timed release fertilizer and potting mixes are available on the side table. Preorder your supplies by email info@staugorchidsociety.org and we'll deliver to you at the meeting. There is a Purely Organic sign up sheet for February 2019 delivery. \$25 for 25# bag and \$40 for a 50# bag. Prepay by December 2018 meeting. Holiday Calendars created by Terry Bottom from SAOS show table orchid photos can be ordered for delivery in December. If you want one, sign up by November meeting. \$15 each.

- Club librarian Penny highlighted the book *American Cattleyas* by our own Courtney Hackney as a great reference; a SAOS member quickly borrowed it. Penny is stepping down after many years of volunteering. She received a heartfelt

round of applause. Send a request for a book or DVD you would like to info@staugorchidsociety.org and Bea Orendorff, our new librarian, will bring the item(s) to the next meeting. The library collection is listed on our [SAOS website](http://staugorchidsociety.org).

- Nominating Committee - Sue Bottom announced that the Committee is searching for volunteers to help out the club in various areas. If you are interested in becoming more involved with the Club, talk to committee members, Sue, Linda or Terry about the available areas in which we need volunteers.

- Linda and Dianne delivered raffle tickets to the six people with birthdays in October. If you know of anyone in need of a cheering up or get well card, let Linda know by emailing her at info@staugorchidsociety.org.



Show Table. Courtney Hackney proceeded left to right to review the Show Table starting with the classic white *Cattleya Bow Bells* 'Elzada'. This hybrid from British orchid company Black & Flory, was named for the bells of St. Mary-Le-Bow – a church in the financial district of London. With the help of Clint McDade of Rivermont Orchids, the Bow Bell orchid survived W.W.II after being shipped from Europe to Signal Mount, Tenn. Next, was the purple *Spathoglottis plicata* that is a terrestrial orchid sometimes called the Ground Orchid. It can be grown in the garden as long as it is protected from freezes. An intense bright orange Blc. Hawaiian Thrill 'Paradise' with large flowers was next and Courtney said it will bloom 2-3 times/year.

There were several intergeneric *Oncidiinae*, crosses between different genera that create new intergeneric orchids such as Bakerara Amy Roth 'Hawaii'. This and the species *Miltonia clowesii* 'Diego' look very different but have similar backgrounds.

Continued on page 3



CLUB NEWS



Upcoming Orchid Events

October

- 5-7 East Everglades Orchid Society Show
RF Orchids, Homestead
- 6 SAOS at Ace Hardware, 9 am til 1 pm
3050 US 1 S in St. Augustine
Repotting and Plant Clinic
- 9 JOS Meeting, ABCs of Orchid Nutrition, 7
Alan Koch, Gold Country Orchids
- 13 Florida North-Central AOS Judging, 1 pm
Clermont Judging Ctr, 849 West Ave.
- 13-14 Gainesville Orchid Society Show
Kanapaha Botanical Garden
- 19-21 Orchttoberbest at EFG Orchids
4265 Marsh Road, Deland 32724
- 21 Keiki Club for Orchid Beginners, 1 pm
Get the 'chids Ready for Winter
Bob and Yvonne Schimmel's Home
702 Wilkes Court, St. Aug 32086
- 26-28 Delray Beach Orchid Society Show
Old School Square Gymnasium
- 27-28 Florida West Coast Orchid Society Show
Pinellas Park Performing Arts Center

November

- 6 SAOS Meeting, 6:30 pm
Becoming an 80 Percentile Grower
Fred Clarke, Sunset Valley Orchids
- 10 Florida North-Central AOS Judging, 1 pm
Clermont Judging Ctr, 849 West Ave.
- 10-11 Fort Pierce Orchid Society Show
Fort Pierce Shrine Club
- 13 JOS Meeting, Catasetums, 7 pm
Fred Clarke, Sunset Valley Orchids
- 17-18 Deerfield Beach Orchid Society Show
Safe Schools Institute, Boca Raton

December

- 2? JOS Christmas Auction, 5:30 pm
Orange Park Country Club
2525 Country Club Blvd, Orange Park
- 4 SAOS Christmas Auction, 6:30 pm
We're meeting on our normal Tuesday night at a different location!

- Memorial Lutheran Church
3375 US 1 South, St. Aug 32086
- 8 Florida North-Central AOS Judging, 1 pm
Clermont Judging Ctr, 849 West Ave.

January 2019

- 5-6 Sarasota Orchid Society Show
Sarasota Municipal Auditorium
- 8 JOS Meeting, Topic TBA, 7 pm
Speaker TBA
- 9 SAOS Meeting, 6:30 pm
Changed meeting date from the 1st Tuesday to the 2nd Wednesday to accommodate Dave
Dave Off, Waldor Orchids
Catleyas

St. Augustine Orchid Society Organization

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CLUB NEWS

Continued from page 1

Sue Bottom brought in a spectacular *Ctsm. pileatum* with its huge unique flowers and said this is her first flowering in three years. There were also two other *Catasetums* on the show table: *Ctsm. schmidtianum* with its burgundy/yellow flowers and the *Ctsm. saccatum* with its chocolate, vanilla and lemon flowers. Courtney commented that our club, with the guidance of Sue Bottom, grows some wonderful *catasetums*.

Next was the *Blc. Toshie's Magic 'Doris'* hybrid with an exaggerated lip of deep velvety royal purple that can bloom 2-3 times per year. Another easy growing, multi-flowering *cattleya* was the *Lc. Angel Heart*. *Cochlezeella Tsiku Chuchango* with its beautiful white and purple flowers hanging down on inflorescences was unusual. Then Courtney showed us the *Arom Gold 'Volcano Queen'* from the Akatsuka Orchid Gardens and with the help of Terry Bottom, held the orange and red lipped orchid up in the camera lights which demonstrated how bright and beautiful the flowers are in day light. Courtney will be with the Akatsuka's next week studying the Hawaiian orchids. He then moved on to a white and purplish flowered *cattleya* from the Raymond Burr collection, *Lc. Eximia Coerulea 'Sea God'* orchid—one of the original *coerulean* *cattleyas*. Towards the end of the table was an outstanding and large *Dendrobium Jaquelyn Concert* filled with deep purple flowers. Check out the photos of our show table examples at the end of the newsletter and on the SAOS website.

SAOS Program. Courtney Hackney introduced our guest speaker Alan Koch from Gold Country Orchids in California. He is best known for his miniature hybrids that bloom more than once a year. Alan started his presentation with a slide asking if there is a perfect media. For him, it is the media that allows him to water only once a week and that works for each orchid. For some plants, it is the best grade of New Zealand sphagnum moss and for others it is either a coarse mixture, wine bottle corks or no media in a basket. He also prefers just mounting on his new favorite, grape wood from California vineyards. The later two options work well if you are having too much salt buildup which is evidenced by black tip leaves. Mounts make leaching the salt from the roots much easier than if the plant was in a pot. If you have plants with photosynthetic roots, you should either mount or put in clear plastic pots. However he noted that in pots, the mix at the bottom decays first and becomes acidic which makes it more difficult for the roots to get nutrients. An Alan tip: If you see green root tips, do not hold back on fertilizer. Next, he had a slide showing how to use scraps of party hose tied around the plant which will force the roots to grow towards the mount quickly and get the plant secured. With many potted plants, he collars them with approximately an inch of the sphagnum. Then the rest of the pot is empty

which gives room for the roots to grow. As he repots to larger pots he just adds more sphagnum around the collar only. This makes for quick and less intrusive repotting and if you have the best New Zealand sphagnum, this will work for well over five years.

Alan has over 4,000 species in his nurseries but loves to grow *cattleyas*. He then showed a slide which seemed to reveal why he likes working with them, they: (1) like to dry between watering, (2) can take a licking and keep on ticking, (3) don't die when you fail to repot on a timely basis, (4) forgive over watering and under watering, and (5) can take a wide range of temperatures.

He then proceeded to show slides of *cattleyas* that each demonstrated the above points including his favorite *C. luteola*, which grows in *Phalaenopsis* level lights, likes to dry between waterings, requires good humidity and is slightly salt tolerant. And, he noted, if you don't have those conditions, it'll still grow. A very hardy plant. For the later half of his presentation, Alan showed a variety of slides of orchids and described their growing conditions and sensitivities. A few I was able to note:

- The Brazilian warm growing *Baptistonia echinata* 'John Kelly' had flowers that looked like bumble bees flying out at you.
 - *Inobulbum munificum* has a bizarre amount of 'hair' growing around its pseudobulbs, mimicking the cacti it grows near that have similar hairy thorns to keep rodents and insects away.
 - *C. aelandiae* likes to dry between watering and is very salt sensitive. He grows the orchids in clear pots with wine corks (straight from the bottles). This orchid does not like to be divided so he puts a second clear pot with corks next to the pot and allows the pseudobulb to grow over the side of the pot to become established well in the second neighboring pot. Only then does he cut the plant into two separate units.
 - *C. intermedia* that grows in a wide variety of conditions, from on sand in direct sun to a shady tree limb.
- Alan's talks are always full of information and tips that he so freely shares. His slides make you want to increase your collection even more.

Meeting Conclusion. Tom Sullivan announced the Member's Choice Award as a tie between Sue Bottom's *Catasetum pileatum* and Penny Halyburton's *Dendrobium Jaquelyn Concert*. The evening concluded with the Silent Auction winners and Raffle table. Thanks to all the helpful hands that stayed to reset the tables and chairs and clean up the room.

Thanks to Watson Realty and
Jeanette Smith for the use of their
meeting space at
3505 US 1 South



CLUB NEWS

November 6 SAOS

Meeting

Become a Top of the Class Orchid Grower

Fred Clarke, [Sunset Valley Orchids](#)



Fred will talk about growing orchids, how 80% of your success is a result of providing the right light, water and temperature for your orchids and repotting them at the proper time. Everything else, like the fertilizer, snake oils, etc. translates into the final 20% of your success.

Fred talks to our club every year or two and always brings fabulous catasetums, cattleyas and Australian dendrobiums. You can get a 10% discount on preorders from his website.

Bring your flowering orchids to exhibit on the Show Table. We will have our normal raffle at the end of the meeting. Friends and guests are always welcome!



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x8zAyVbfyZA&feature=youtu.be>

American Orchid Society Corner

Upcoming Webinars:

October 9, 8:30-9:30 pm, Everyone Invited

[Orchiata Bark](#) – Garry Clark

October 18, 8:30-9:30 pm, Everyone Invited

[Greenhouse Chat Orchid, Q&A](#) - Ron McHatton

Orchids Magazine this month: [request free issue](#)

Genus of the Month: Galeandras

Anselia Species and Hybrids, Michael Tibbs

Bulbophyllum Karen Lewis, Bill Thoms

Novice: Orchid Hygiene, Sue Bottom

[Photos of Latest AOS Awards](#)



October 21 Keiki Club Getting Ready for Winter

The Keiki Club for orchid beginners will be Sunday afternoon on October 21 from 1 to 3 pm. It may not feel like it, but winter is coming and it's time to start your fall preparations. Spend some quality time with your orchids to get them ready for their winter home. We'll talk about fall preparations and the minimum night time temperatures your plants can tolerate in winter. We'll also talk about those orchids that require special winter care, like the deciduous or soft cane dendrobiums and the catasetinae.

Moderator: Bob Schimmel

Where: Bob and Yvonne Schimmel's Home

702 Wilkes Court, St. Aug 32086

When: October 21, 1 - 3 pm

October Orchid Field Trips

Feel like a road trip? Here are some close by orchid happenings this month.

Gainesville OS Show, October 13-14. "Orchids in the Garden" is the theme of the Gainesville Orchid Society Show at Kanapaha Gardens. There will be orchid exhibits, seminars and orchid and plant vendors at the event. Mac's Orchids, Odom's Orchids, Plantio La Orquidea, and Ritter's Tropic 1 Orchids will be offering orchids for sale.

Orchtoberfest at EFG, October 19-21. EFG Orchids is a commercial orchid grower, owned by George Hausermann Jr. originally of Chicago and fourth generation orchid grower. Orchids and tropical plants will be offered for sale by EFG. The Hausermann clan will be busy preparing brats, German potato salad and more.



INSPIRATION



Tillandsia Orchid Wildchild

© Terry Botto



CULTIVATION



Orchid Questions & Answers

by Sue Bottom,
sbottom15@gmail.com

Q1. I have some new leaves with streaks on a cattleya I have had for 10 years. It bloomed beautifully in May as usual. It is hanging under my lanai roof with a west exposure.

One leaf fell off and I noticed these others have the same problem. Most of the old growth looks fine. Any ideas?



A1. I think that's bacterial on the new growths. That new growth is so soft and tender that the bacteria can much more easily invade the tissue than the older mature growths that have hardened off with a good waxy cuticle layer. It was so rainy earlier this year that I moved almost all the cattleyas into the greenhouse, only the tough schomburgkias and schombocatts were left under the shade structure. That tender growth is just so susceptible; all you can do is cut off the infected stuff. I sprayed Zeritol before and after storms and it helped, probably copper or Physan would be better, but be careful with genera sensitive to copper.

Q2. I just dropped this cattleya into a clay pot rather than repotting, but decided it was time to repot. When I pulled it out of the clay pot, there are all these roots growing out of the plastic slotted basket. Now what do I do?

A2. As long as the mix inside the plastic basket is in good shape, don't disturb the cattleya or its roots. You can try water jetting out any material that you can remove, and then find a large wooden slatted basket. You may have to remove the top collar of the plastic basket so it nestles easily into the wooden basket. Get some nippers and just cut right



below the solid collar, where it joins the netted basket. The basket will lose its rigidity, but it will be supported by the wooden basket.

Q3. I recently bought this *Brassavola cucullata* bare root. Unfortunately, when I unwrapped it, the roots were all rotted. The vendor said it needs to be mounted "upside down" with the leaves hanging down. What is the best method to revive this plant? Can I still properly mount it and regrow the roots?



A3. Your first order of business will be developing new roots and you may need some rooting hormones to make that happen fast. I use Dip 'N Gro, but there are plenty of them on the market.

If you want to mount it, mount it so the growths will dangle pendulously from the mount, make sure it is immobilized with a couple cable ties, if it moves while the roots are developing, they'll be rubbed away and die.

You can put it in a slight shadier spot while you're waiting on roots to grow and spray it 2 or three times a day, or put a little sphagnum or Spanish moss (may be better) to keep humidity high around the roots. Once the roots attach, say 2 months down the road, you can move it into brighter light, remove excess moss, etc. If you need any help, don't hesitate to ask!



CULTIVATION



Cold Tolerance of Some Orchids

Courtney's Growing Tips

Cymbidiums are one of the most cold tolerant groups even though some come from warmer areas. Hybrids are almost certain to be cool tolerant. Many growers leave their mature Cymbidiums outside in a south-facing location where they are protected by the overhang

of a house or tree until there are hard frosts. Plants with frost damaged leaves often have magnificent inflorescences and larger than normal flowers. The same effect can be obtained with temperatures above freezing. The general recommendation is to bring plants in if the temperature is predicted to be below 35 or plants are in an unprotected location subject to frost.

Cattleyas, too, do not mind a nice cool down, but not to the same degree as Cymbidiums. Night temperatures in the lower 50s do no harm as long as the roots are not wet and the day temperature rises. The key is never let a Cattleya stay damp and cold 24 hours. If kept dry, most hybrids do fine even if it gets below 50. Some species and their hybrids, notable *Laelia purpurata* and *L. anceps*, will grow alongside Cymbidiums this time of year and flower with better colors if allowed to cool into the 40s.

Paph rothschildiana and its hybrids have the reputation of being difficult to flower. Many books suggest that they must be very large before they will flower. However, they will flower readily if they are given a month or two of 50-degree nights, less water, and less fertilizer. Once they slow growth and begin to develop an inflorescence raise temperatures and water as you would other Paphs.

Zygopetalums that develop new growths when nights are in the 50s generally produce a bloom spike at the same time. Some species and many hybrids will flower repeatedly as long as the nights are cool. Do not limit water and fertilizer for this group because they seem to stay in a growth mode.

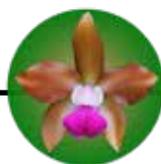
Vandas, Ascocendas, and their close kin are known to be warm loving, but can take a bit of cold, into the 50s, if they are dry and are able to warm up the next day. It is not recommended that they be left outside in conditions continuously below 60 F. Buds will blast and the plant will go into dormancy if they are not kept warm during the day or if they get continued cold nights. Some books used to suggest that they would not flower well if night temperatures were in the 60s. Not only is this not true, but flowers are bright-



er, clearer and larger if nights are cool, as opposed to the warm sultry nights found in Florida. *Vanda coerulea* and a few other high elevation species actually like these cooler nights; a fact that may explain why so many vandaceous hybrids flower better when nights are cool. It is important to provide bright light, warm days, and good humidity if you want your Vandas to thrive during the winter, but they are not harmed by a few cold nights.

Phalaenopsis are probably the warmest loving of Orchids, but still need a cool down to initiate spiking. This is true for most of the large-flowered species and hybrids, but not for the fragrant summer blooming species such as *Phal violacea* and *amboinensis*. October is the ideal month to initiate this process and is accomplished by letting your Phals cool down into the upper 50s or lower 60s. The trick is that they must also warm up the next day 25 degrees F or more. The change in temperature is the most critical component in the initiation of spikes in this group. Most greenhouse growers find that spike initiation occurs without trying, but indoors growers may have to consciously create these conditions to obtain flowers.

Note: Dr. Courtney Hackney wrote a monthly column of his orchid growing tips for about 20 years; we are reprinting some you might have missed, this one from October 2001.



CULTIVATION

Orchid Companions

by Ken Slump, reprinted with permission
courtesy of the American Orchid Society

My zeal for orchids developed from a general interest in tropical plants that was rekindled some years ago as I began seeking plants for a sunroom in a new residence. Initially, a few orchids provided highlights in my jungle of exotic foliage, but they thrived and caught my attention. I began adding more (you know how it goes), and within a year, virtually every tropical plant had been replaced with an orchid.

Orchid growers often seem to prohibit any nonorchidaceous plant from their orchid-growing environment. I suppose this is because we often feel we lack sufficient room for all the orchids we would like to have, let alone any other plants. There is one group of plants, however, that I've reintroduced among my orchid collection, not only for their intrinsic interest, but also for a couple of useful services they can provide. These plants are members of the genus *Tillandsia*.

Tillandsia is the largest genus in the bromeliad family (Bromeliaceae), a rather bizarre and varied family whose most familiar members are the pineapple. There are more than 400 species of *Tillandsia*. Most come from Latin America, a few from the southern United States. It is an extremely varied genus of epiphytes, many of which share their habitats with orchids.

GREAT VARIETY *Tillandsias* vary considerably in color, size and shape, and inhabit both moist and dry tropical environments. The ones from dry habitats make the best orchid companions. They generally have smaller foliage and stature, are often of interesting form and color and are also stress tolerant.

The foliage color among these is often grayish to silver-white, due to structures on the leaf surface called trichomes, which are particularly well developed in this group. The trichomes transfer rain and humidity from the leaf surface to water storage cells within. They also reflect sunlight from the leaf, thus helping to keep it cool and prevent excess drying. These epiphytes are ideally suited for mounting onto bark or a small branch, and many are perfectly happy just sitting on a bench or shelf.

Undoubtedly the most familiar among the *Tillandsias* is the diminutive Spanish moss (*Tillandsia usneoides*), small plants of which can slowly develop into long strands of gray-green growth. Of course it is not a moss at all and, in the right season, the sharp-eyed may be able to spot its tiny yellowish flowers tucked among the gray foliage. This is an excellent plant for any orchid growing area, as it is a great indicator of adequate humidity. If you can grow Spanish moss, you can be certain that you have enough



moisture in the air to satisfy most orchids; just be sure to wet down the Spanish moss whenever the orchids are watered. (There actually are a number of orchid growers who employ humidifiers and mist systems in order to grow their plants, and they are not all indoor growers.)

In contrast to the pendent Spanish moss, other *Tillandsias* have more or less upright growth habits, frequently with foliage arranged in a rosette pattern. Most of these thrive in moderate to very bright light. *Tillandsia xerographica* is a personal favorite among this type. Its long foliage is silver-green and twisted. *Tillandsia latifolia* has shorter, straighter leaves of a similar color.

Textural contrast is provided by species with fine, grasslike foliage. Ranging from Mexico to Bolivia, *Tillandsia juncea* is somewhat variable in form throughout its habitat. Most examples have linear, grayish-blue foliage. *Tillandsia setacea* is also grasslike.

FLORAL CHOICES Members of the genus are also known for their beautiful flowers. Coloration varies from vivid purple and red to rich yellow and pink, as well as other shades. As with orchids, flowers in some species last a week or two, yet others may last for months. Some are fragrant.

The principal flowering season for mature plants is late autumn through early spring. Unfortunately, flowering signals the slow demise of the parent plant, as each blooms just once. However, offsets, commonly called pups, are produced during or soon after the flowers, and these will grow to replace the parent.

Tillandsias are excellent plants to have at hand when orchid show time rolls around. Their dramatic textures and architectural forms combine interestingly with orchids and the foliage colors often provide harmonious relief from too much green. Few plants complement orchids as well, particularly when used in smaller tabletop exhibits. Similarly, they are good choices for use in table centerpieces featuring orchid plants or flowers.

It is pretty easy for orchid growers to become very single-minded with their horticultural pursuit. Adding a few-fellow tropical epiphytes such as the low-maintenance *Tillandsias* to the mix is a good way to expand your focus.

This article appeared in the American Orchid Society Orchids magazine, in July 2003 (Vol. 72:7, pp 492-493), photo by Terry Bottom.



CULTIVATION

Fall Preparations

by Sue Bottom, sbottom15@gmail.com

The welcome transition to fall is upon us, the temperatures are starting to moderate and the humidity is going down. Our orchids are responding by entering their fall growth spurt when you see new green root tips start to emerge. If you have any plants that need repotting, this is your last chance this year. Enough of the growing season is left for them to get re-established. You may increase watering a bit during this brief period as the lower humidity allows pots to dry out more quickly.

Clean Up Your Plants. Use the delightful fall months to spend some quality time with your plants. Inspect each plant individually and clean it up in advance of moving it to its winter home. Start at one end of your growing area and plant by plant, remove dead flower spikes, any unsightly leaves, etc. Give them a bath to make sure that you are only bringing in your plants, and not any critters. Spray them with a hose end sprayer set to flat to remove any spider webs, etc. Clean off leaves with lemon juice or white vinegar to remove the messy buildup of minerals on the leaves.

Drenches. This is a good time to practice some preventative maintenance. You can mix up a jug of suitable and compatible chemicals and pour it through the pots to eliminate some potential problems.

Ants and Cockroaches. You do not want to introduce ants and roaches into your porch or home for the winter. A Sevin drench can help eliminate these pests.

Sucking Insects. Remove sheaths to reduce the number of places that insects have to hide. Watch for signs of scale and mealy bugs, any kind of white fuzzy mass. If you do find any annoying critters, you can treat small spots with rubbing alcohol or spray all the plant surfaces with a suitable insecticide. Alternatively, you can add one of the systemic insecticides like acephate (trade name Orthene) or imidacloprid (sold sometimes as Tree and Shrub) to your insecticide jug and pour through the pots to be absorbed into the plant and kill these insects from the inside out.

Sprays. You can spray plants while they are still outside to prevent problems during winter. Just make sure to make sure chemicals are compatible and follow personal protection guidelines.

Pests. You can also consider spraying with one of the summer oils to smother pests, spraying upper and lower leaf surfaces. This will also remove some of the hard water marks so your leaves will be shiny. If you have a problem with mites, one of the combined miticide-insecticide products can be used.

Diseases. A spray with one of the broad spectrum fungicides containing with quaternary ammonium compounds

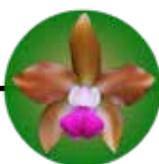


(Physan, Consan, Green Shield) or, for nonsensitive genera, copper, is good preventative medicine. If you have or have had specific problems, select a fungicide that has targeted effectiveness for a given disease.

Winter Homes. The phalaenopsis and most of the cattleyas are grown year round in the greenhouse; other plants grown in outdoor shade houses. Most of these outdoor growers are moved into the heated hoop house or greenhouse before the cold weather. The hoop house sits empty all summer so there is plenty of time for it be cleaned, weeded, and sterilized prior to moving plants inside, and of course, the heater and spray system are checked for functionality.

Prep Plants. Evaluate how well your plants grew during the summer months and try to identify things you wish you had done differently. My general observations for this growing year are:

Vandaceous Orchids. The vandas all grow in a sunny hoop house with an automated overhead spraying system that saturates the roots and leaves for 10 minutes daily, often with a second spraying. To get the vandas ready for their winter move, they are all sprayed, roots and leaves, to remove the algae. You can use quaternary ammonium compounds (Consan, Physan, pool algacide), and you may have to spray twice. Then water blast the roots to clean them up. If the wooden baskets are deteriorating, replace them with S hooks and attach using zip ties. If the roots are dead or the bottom stem has become woody, you can cut away the stem up to healthy tissue. Look at the stem for signs of fusarium, the characteristic reddish purple band around the outside edge of the stem. If you find fusarium, keep cutting until you find clean tissue, sterilizing your shears between each cut. If you find the sandpapery purple to black diamond shaped lesions on the leaves characteristic of Phyllosticta / Guignardia, remove the infected leaves to prevent the spores from spreading. A final spray with thiophanate methyl (Thiomyl, Banrot,



CULTIVATION

Cleary's 3336) and the plants are prepped for winter. *Bulbophyllums*. The bulbos all grow in a shadier hoop house with an automated overhead spraying system that runs for 10 minutes each day. These bulbos are mostly grown on horizontal plaques or baskets with some Spanish moss draped around them. New additions also had a thin layer of long fibered sphagnum moss under the plants to help get them established. While inspecting these plants, the sphagnum moss had lots of mold and algal growth, so it obviously stayed too wet, even for the water loving bulbos. This sphagnum was water blasted away from the plants and some Spanish moss draped over the top for water retention. A protective spray with copper and the plants are ready for their move to the heated hoop house.

Catasetums. The *Catasetums* are in their glory during the summer and early fall. They are growing in the shade house under 50% shade cloth, hanging in clay pots filled with Styrofoam in the bottom and Sphagnum moss on top. Many are blooming for the third or fourth time this year, and a very few have yellowing leaves. An inspection reveals a few keikis growing on some pseudobulbs and upon closer inspection, the mother bulbs were soft and rotting. The soft bulbs were removed and the remaining plant returned to the shade house, and the keikis potted up while there is still time for them to become established. Spider mites do not seem to be much of a problem in the shade house, perhaps in part because of the wet early summer we had. These plants require no special preparations this time of year except to clean up fallen leaves and flowers. As the leaves yellow and the plants begin to enter the dormancy, they are moved to a separate area so they will not be watered. The other plants are coaxed into dormancy, first by eliminating the fertilizer in their diet in October and then allowing more time between waterings. If they have not shed their leaves by mid-December, water is withheld to force dormancy. *Catasetums*, *clowesias*, *cynoches* and *mormodes* as well as a few others like *calanthe* are dormant during the winter months. They need no water at all until the new growth starts in the spring. Find a place to group these together where you know you will not water them. Some people turn the pots on their sides to remind themselves.

Dendrobiums. You can divide your dendrobiums into two general groups, those that enjoy a coolish, dryish winter and those that grow well with cattleyas. [Culture tips](#) are available on the SAOS website. Keep those plants that grow similarly or mark the pots with different colored tags so that you will know that they can be watered or not watered and fertilized or not fertilized according to their needs. The dendrobiums all grow under the shade house receiving rainwater or being water on a daily or every other day basis. Their winter cultural requirements are quite different.

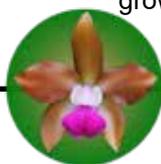
The spring blooming Dendrobium section dendrobiums (the upright nobiles and pendent seminobiles) and the

Callista section with the grape cluster flowers all enjoy a coolish, dryish winter rest. Some of the Australian dendrobiums like *kingianum* and *speciosum* can also tolerate cold temperatures. These dendrobiums look great after the summer rains, with abundant growths. Some few leaves are starting to yellow by late summer/early fall. Their vegetative growth phase is over for the year and fertilizer can be restricted. They will be moved under the eaves of the potting shed by the end of November to limit rainfall and they will be watered only once or twice a month; some people restrict all watering from Thanksgiving until after flowering in the spring. They are moved into a heated structure only if temperatures are projected to dip into the 35 to 38F range.

The rest of the dendrobiums are grown like cattleyas. Take a few moments to inspect the plants. They spend so many years in the same pots that weeds and ferns can easily become established. Either pull the weeds or spray/paint the weeds with an herbicide containing Diuron (Karmex, Parrot, and other trade names). Look at the leaves for evidence of the leaf spotting *Cercosporoid* fungi. Remove and destroy infected leaves and spray the plant with a suitable fungicide such as one containing chlorothanil (trade name Daconil) or thiophanate methyl (trade names Banrot, Cleary's 3336 or Thiomyl). These dendrobiums are grown in the heated greenhouse along with the cattleyas.

Phalaenopsis. The phals grow year round in the greenhouse. They benefit from an antibacterial spray with copper before the cold weather arrives. They are top dressed with a little Purely Organic or timed-release fertilizer in early fall to enhance their spring blooms. *Phalaenopsis* require a significant day to night temperature change to initiate spikes. We usually get our first cold snap around Halloween; allow the plants to chill during this cool weather with nights in the upper 50s F as long as the day temperature rises above 80F. Leave phals outdoors or place them next to an open window during this cool weather. After 2 or 3 weeks of exposure to this drop in nighttime temperatures, phals should be moved to their winter homes. They should be on schedule to spike by Christmas and have buds opening by Valentine's Day.

Have a plan to protect your plants during the winter months and prepare your plants and the winter growing area during the fall transition. Do a little research to understand the cold tolerance of your different plants; [guidelines](#) are available on the SAOS website. In general, vandas, phals and *phalaenopsis* type dendrobiums are the least cold tolerant so get them situated before night time temperatures drop below 55F. Most of your other plants can easily tolerate nighttime temperatures to the 45 to 50F range. The cool fall weather is a great time to spend quality time with your plants. By the Thanksgiving holidays, your plants should all be situated in their winter homes, waiting for the next growing season.



CULTIVATION



1. The hoophouse is empty in summer; no plants are allowed. It can be weeded and sanitized before plants are moved in the fall.



2. If the hoophouse was used during the summer, there would be no room for the orchids and tropicals when the cold weather rolls around.



3. *Catasetums* cram a year's worth of growing into about 8 months, so they like plenty of light, air, water and fertilizer during the growing season.



4. They endure the droughty conditions in their natural habitat by shedding their leaves until the rainy season returns.



5. The pendent seminobile dendrobiums have beautiful green foliage by summer's end.



6. The pendent soft canes often drop their leaves during the winter and develop buds in early spring.



7. They put on quite a show in spring blooming from leafless canes, like this *Den. cucullatum*.



8. This dendrobium leaf is infected with one of the leaf spotting *Cercosporoid* fungi. This seems to be contagious in dendrobiums, remove the leaf.



9. This is the bottom of the same dendrobium leaf. You can see how the chlorotic spots on the top match up with the brown splotches on the bottom.



ORCHID ADVENTURES

**Looking Glass
Orchids Inc.**
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ENTRANCE
WEDNESDAY - SATURDAY 10-4



Looking Glass Orchids
Pisgah Forest, North Carolina

Spending time in the North Carolina mountains in August is always refreshing, and visiting a new orchid nursery along the way is so much fun. We stopped into Looking Glass Orchids, an outgrowth of the Owens Orchids operations. Master grower Russ Bolt has quite a spread and variety of orchids. Russ grows many genera including his cattleyas in a ProMix based medium which must be allowed to dry between waterings. He has very pure water derived from wells in granite, almost rainwater quality. His nursery is very clean and his plants very healthy and well grown. We did not leave enough time to see the whole operation, so I guess we will just have to go back... soon!



SHOW TABLE



Grower Annalee McPhilomy
Spathoglottis plicata



Grower Jan Lesnikoski
Encyclia cochleatum var. alba



Grower Linda Stewart
Cne. Green Light



Grower Sue Bottom
C. Bow Bells 'Elzada' AM/AOS



Grower Jan Lesnikoski
Miltonia clowesii 'Diego'



Grower Yvonne & Bob Schimmel
Blc. Marg Putman



Grower Suzanne Susko
Blc. Toshie's Magic 'Doris'



SHOW TABLE



Grower Sue Bottom
Ctsm. pileatum



Grower Michael Rourke & Penny Halyburton
Den. Jaquelyn Concert



Grower Courtney Hackney
Pot. Hawaiian Thrill 'Paradise'



Grower Tom & Dottie Sullivan
Lc. Eximia var. coerulea 'Sea God'



Grower Tom & Dottie Sullivan
Blc. Arom Gold 'Volcano Queen'



Grower Linda Stewart
Cochlezella Tsiku Chuchango

Link to all Pictures. <https://flic.kr/s/aHsmt9V9iC>

